

# ***INTRODUCTION***

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Pain is well recognized as key symptom in the decision to seek professional medical care. Pain associated with progressive degenerative disease such as osteoarthritis of the knee has been shown to be an important antecedent to disability, (*Rejesk, et al., 1995*).

Osteoarthritis is the most prevalent form of arthritis and its most common site is the knee joint, (*Altman, 1995*). Recent guidelines for management of knee osteoarthritis emphasize the role of patient education, weight loss, physical and occupational therapy, aerobic exercise and pharmacological therapy. Pharmacological agents, especially non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), have the potential to cause unpleasant and sometimes dangerous side effects, (*Perneger, et al. 1994*),

Acupuncture is an effective and adjunctive therapy to conventional care for patients with osteoarthritis of the knee, (*Berman et al., 1999*).

Acupuncture is a method of encouraging the body to promote natural healing and to improve functioning. This is done by inserting the needles and applying heat or electrical stimulation at very precise points, (*Sims, 1997*).